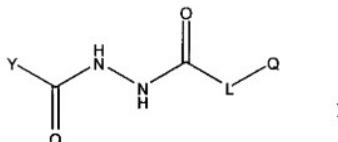


**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula I



wherein

Y is a residue of a macromolecule, wherein the macromolecule is a compound having at least one group that can react with a hydrazide compound, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of an oligonucleotide, a nucleic acid or a metabolically stabilized analogue thereof, a polypeptide, a lipid, a glycoprotein, a glycolipid, a polysaccharide, a protein, and a synthetic polymer;

Q is a SH group, or is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-24</sub> alkyl halide, C<sub>1-24</sub> alkoxy-C<sub>1-24</sub> alkyl, α-halocarbonyl, maleimides, vinyl sulfones, acrylonitriles, α-methylene esters, quinine methides, acryloyl esters, acryloyl amide, α-halo esters and α-halo amides; and

L is a polyalkylene group, a polyether group, a polyamide group, a polyimino group, an aryl group, a polyester, or a polythioether group,

wherein when Q is a thiol group, Y is not a residue of hyaluronan.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises an oligonucleotide, a nucleic acid or a metabolically stabilized analogue thereof, a polypeptide, a lipid, a glycoprotein, a glycolipid, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable compound.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises a polysaccharide, a protein, or a synthetic polymer.

Claims 4- 6 (Withdrawn)

7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises a protein, and the protein comprises a naturally-occurring protein or a recombinant protein.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises a protein, and the protein comprises an extracellular matrix protein, a chemically-modified extracellular matrix protein, or a partially hydrolyzed derivative of an extracellular matrix protein.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein the protein comprises collagen, elastin, decorin, laminin, or fibronectin.

Claims 10-12 (Withdrawn)

13. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein L is CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is a residue of a protein or polysaccharide, Q is a thiol, and L is CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>.

Claims 15-115. (Withdrawn)